

President's Message

When was the last time you heard someone say thank you? According to [V.J. Smith](#), author of the book "The Richest Man in Town," saying thank you is a dying art, but being grateful is a good thing".

"Have you ever heard that happy people may not always be grateful, but grateful people are always happy?" Smith asked! This was just a spotlight from the Opening General Session at the Region V Leadership Conference, April 6-9, 2022 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Highlights of the conference included V.J. Smith who currently serves as a member of the South Dakota State Senate. Smith shared pinnacle points from his best-selling book, "The Richest Man in Town", and reminded us the importance of saying, "Thank you". Other keynote speakers were Tom Johnson, President & CEO, Elevate Rapid City, Ray Hesper, CEO & Co-Founder Property Meld and Beth Buckwalter, Entrepreneur Supporting CTE. Breakout sessions allowed attendee's to interact and select from over 30 Breakout Session strands from Leadership, Work Based Learning and Business/Community Partnerships within the 3 days of "Portraits of Success" Conference. Tours of the spectacular South Dakota included Mount Rushmore and National Memorial, Hospitality and Tourism Tour of Deadwood, Black Hills Pioneer, and other industries such as mining, State of the Art medical learning Center. Each tour offered a unique CTE learning environment with an evening meal.

Awards and recognition were highlighted at the Crazy Horse Experience and Awards Banquet. Montana had four CTE professional candidates that competed with other Region V candidates: Outstanding New Teacher, **Mandy Wichman**, Hobson; Lifetime Achievement, **Janie McFarland**, Conrad; Teacher of the Year, **Kimberli McCullough**, Big Timber and Postsecondary Professional, **Denise Holland**, Dillon. Montana ACTE won an award for Membership and Recruitment, Communication Awards.

Congratulations to our Executive Director, **Mark Branger** as he was recognized for his outstanding leadership and dedication to Region V ACTE. **Kim Knoche**, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Forsyth High School was awarded the ACTE Region V Innovative Career and Technical Education Program for her use of 3-D printers and Cricuts. The Best Practice Round Table for Montana, highlighted "Teach CTE Day" by MT OPI specialist **Shannon Boswell** and "Ronan Food Truck: The Ronan High School CTE Program" by **Casey Lunceford**, AG teacher Ronan High School.

Mark your calendar for future ACTE Region V Leadership Conferences, Fargo, North Dakota, April 12-15, 2023 and Hawaii, April 9-12, 2024.

CTE can give our students many opportunities to succeed in life but as V. J. Smith shared at our Region V presentation, "If we take the time to put forth the effort to lift up the life of somebody else, it really changes things," and "even the smallest effort to show gratitude and say thank you can have lasting impacts." Thank you MACTE teachers for your leadership that ensures our students can reach for a successful career. Plan to attend an exciting 2022 MACTE Institute, October 20-21 at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center with the theme of "Teaching the Skills to Pay the Bills".

Kimberli McCullough, Montana ACTE President

Montana ACTE wins
2022 Region V
Communication Award



Best Practices Round Table

Save the Date! 2022 Montana ACTE Fall Institute

This October, Montana CTE professionals from across the state will gather in Billings, MT at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, October 20-21 for the most exciting CTE event of the year in Montana. This years theme is "Teaching the Skills to Pay the Bills" with our keynote speaker, [Andy Masters](#).

By attending the fall institute you will discover new teaching approaches, find solutions to your shared challenges, share your best practices with colleagues and leave with constructive new ideas to take back to your school. Important dates to know as you begin planning include:

- * Online Registration opens **August 1**
- * **Registration packet will be posted** online at www.montanaacte.org by **July 1**

MBEA Update

Hello fellow CTE Professionals. I don't know about you but for me this year has gone by faster than any year before it. Good luck with all you're doing to finish your year strong.

The BPA State Leadership Conference was held in Billings March 13-15, and it was excellent to be back in person! There were nearly 1200 members present, including for the first time at a live state conference, middle school students! The State Officer Team and the Executive Board did a great job of planning an engaging and well-run conference. Over 150 middle and high school students qualified for Nationals and will be headed to Dallas, Texas, May 4-8. More than \$15,000 was donated to Montana Special Olympics. Jill Page was honored as the Advisor of the Year, and the Simms chapter received the Spirit of Professionalism Award.

Because many of the MBEA board members are also BPA advisors, we got together for a little bit during the conference to brainstorm ideas for the 2022 Fall Institute. MACTE's plan for this year is to again have a broad CTE focus on Thursday and break out into division-planned sessions on Friday. This year's conference will be held at the Billings Hotel and Conference Center October 20-21, 2022. The feedback we received from attendees last year centered around preference for hands-on activities that can be taken back to the classroom with little or no prep on your part. [Read More](#)



Helena, Montana
February 16-19, 2023
Distinctly Business Education
Uniquely WBEA

Mandy Wichman, MBEA President

MAFCSE Update

Quite a lot has happened since our meeting at the Montana ACTE Fall Institute and Family & Consumer Sciences Professionals have been working overtime (as per usual) to keep the events and programs of FCS and FCCLA on track. In the past few months, we have celebrated FCCLA Week and National FCS Educator Day, our new OPI Specialist, Gayla Randel, has taken her place and gathered us for webinars, and the state conference of FCCLA was held in person again this year! Over 400 students traveled to Montana State University for this conference to participate in competitions, leadership development, and official business of this Career and Technical Student Organization. Another exciting component added to our FCCLA conference was the state ProStart competition. In ProStart, students participate in competitions focused on both restaurant management and culinary arts.

Looking ahead, the spring does not slow down for Family & Consumer Sciences, and professionals can stay involved by attending the AAFCS Montana Affiliate conference in Choteau, MT April 27th - 29th, the MSU OPI Summer Update in Bozeman, MT June 13th - 17th, and/or the National FCCLA Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA June 29th - July 3rd.

Shae Bruursema, MAFCSE President

Montana ACTE Teacher
Spotlight
Kim Knoche



[Read More](#)

MITEA Update

Happy Spring Everyone!!! If you are involved with SkillsUSA (our CTSO) you are aware that we have just completed our state competition in a new to us location- Helena, Montana! Previously our state competition was held at MSU-Northern in Havre for decades. The new venue in Helena used multiple host sites- mainly Helena College and East Helena High School, with a few competitions being held off-site. Thank you so much to everyone that helped pull this off- I have no doubt it was an incredible amount of work. Also, a shout out to the industry support we received, including Montana Auto Dealers and Dick Anderson Construction, to help make this a great experience for everyone.

Students that qualified and chose to move on to Nationals will be competing in Atlanta, Georgia June 20-25th; good luck to them all! Summer is just around the corner, and I hope you have plans to enjoy your time. We all know that summer goes by too fast, and then right after that is our Fall MACTE conference, which will be in Billings. MITEA officers are planning our division events and are hoping to provide applicable hands-on training- watch for an email either coming from myself or Mike Houghton with further information. If you are interested in being a presenter let us know; we can't make it awesome on our own, and you all have knowledge and experience that others can benefit from. Until next time, take care!

Roni Robertson, MITEA President